

The Woman's Column.

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The Woman's Column.

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SENATOR PATTERSON ON SUFFRAGE.

U. S. Senator Thomas M. Patterson of Colorado was among the speakers at the recent National Suffrage Convention in Washington. He said:

There are only a small number of equal suffrage States, but they are great States, at least in area; and they are situated on the dome of the continent. From them should flow down into all the other States their influences, like their waters, to invigorate and ripen the suffrage movement.

The States that have conferred suffrage on their women compare favorably with other States as to the percentage of illiteracy. Louisiana has 27.6 per cent. of illiterates; the District of Columbia, 7.2; New Hampshire, 5.1; Massachusetts, 4.8; Connecticut, 4.7; New York, 4.5; Maine, 4.2; Colorado, 3.3; Idaho, 1; Wyoming, 3.1; Utah, 2.2. Out of the 45 States, there are only three that have a less per cent. of illiteracy than the enfranchised States.

What is the trouble with woman suffrage? Why is contact between men and women in such bodies as delegate conventions to be deplored? I remember elections in the old times; I remember seeing on one occasion thirty-one young ladies in white dresses and cheese-cloth sashes, representing the thirty-one States, in the midst of a tremendous crush. People are perfectly willing that women should take a share in the most frivolous and objectionable part of campaigns. Why object to their mingling in the graver and more decorous parts? Women with us do no more than they do in other States when a speaker of renown comes. Their presence adds to the decorum of public assemblies. Parlor meetings have now become among the most influential features of the campaign in Denver. The women who take time to vote lose none of their womanly charm, and are none the less delightful because they educate themselves that they may be able to teach their sons and daughters the various phases of politics. The exercise of the suffrage adds to their intelligence, merit and worth.

It is said that equal suffrage would make family discord. In Colorado, our divorce laws are rather easy, though stricter than in the neighboring States; but since 1893, when suffrage was granted,

I have never heard of a case where political differences were alleged as a cause of divorce or as the provoking cause of family discord.

Equal suffrage, in my judgment, broadens the minds of both men and women. It has certainly given us in Colorado candidates of better character, and a higher class of officials. It is very true that husband and wife frequently vote alike; as the magnet draws the needle, they go to the polls together. But women are not coerced. If a man were known to coerce his wife's vote, I believe he would be ridden out of town on a rail, with a coat of tar and feathers.

Women's legal rights have been improved in Colorado since they obtained the ballot. There are now no civil distinctions existing between men and women. And equal suffrage tends to make political affairs better, purer, and more desirable for all who take part in them.

A LADY LEGISLATOR'S BONNET.

During the extra session of the Colorado Legislature which has lately adjourned, the only lady member, Mrs. Evangeline M. Hartz, sustained her reputation as a good working member of the House. Several times when the House went into committee of the whole, she was called to the chair, and presided with much acceptance.

Toward the end of the session, when the House began to get a little frolicsome, the members who were absent from roll-call were "rounded up" and brought before the Speaker to be rebuked and fined. Boxes of apples, candy, crackers, and cigars, shoe-laces and sandwiches were some of the fines imposed. One delinquent, Representative Cunningham, was ordered to buy an Easter bonnet for Mrs. Hartz.

The fines were paid on the evening of the last day, when the House met to transact a little final business and to exhibit an immensity of good feeling. The galleries were crowded with visitors, both men and women. All the partisan foes laid down their arms; there were presentations and tokens of esteem, and resolutions of thanks, and congratulations, and bouquets both verbal and floral, and a distribution of carnations and American Beauty roses. Mr. Cunningham, of Lake, appeared with an enormous bandbox containing the Easter bonnet for Mrs. Hartz, of Arapahoe. He was greeted with cheers as he made his way to the desk of the lady member, and presented her with a choice confection of the very latest style in millinery art. Mrs. Hartz promptly put it on, and then the applause shook the walls.

In view of the wild riot and disorder with which many State Legislatures have shown their joy at the approach of

adjournment, sometimes even leaving the walls of assembly halls and Senate chambers badly damaged by the rough horse-play, this scene in the Colorado Legislature offers the pleasantest possible contrast. Mr. Henry T. Finck, who fears that women would cease to care for pretty clothes if they were given the ballot, might also be reassured by the fact that after nine years of equal suffrage in Colorado, the object chosen as the most acceptable gift to be presented to the only lady member of the Legislature was an Easter bonnet.

COLLEGE WOMEN ASK TO VOTE.

Miss Beatrice Harraden, B. A., author of "Ships that Pass in the Night," and a deputation of other college women, lately presented to a committee of the House of Commons a petition signed by 730 women graduates of different Universities, representing that the only permanent safeguard for women's interests in matters of education was the right to vote for members of Parliament. The introduction of the Education Bill had made this question of great importance to women. The House was just voting on the suspension of Mr. Dillon, in consequence of the "liar" episode between him and Mr. Chamberlain. William E. Lecky, the historian, Unionist and member of Parliament for Dublin University, went out to vote, and then came back and told the college women he wondered if they would like a seat in Parliament, in view of the fact that they would run the risk at any moment of being called "d — d liars"? Mr. Lecky said the emotional element in politics was quite unduly developed as it was, without the introduction of women. It must have been an aggravation to the bright young college women, who had never been so carried away by their emotions as to indulge in profanity in any of their college debating societies, to be opposed with so irrelevant an objection. In the first place, they were not asking for seats in Parliament. In the second, as the *Springfield Republican* truly says, "Mr. Lecky should know that with respectable women in the House of Commons no man would ever say 'damn.'"

Miss Floy V. Gilmore, who was graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan last year, is now in the Philippines, in the governor-general's office. She is practicing law.

The Paris Academy of Medicine has awarded the Victor Hugo prize of 1,000 francs for the best quinquennial work on medical topics to a woman—Dr. Melanie Lipinska of Warsaw, for her book entitled "History of Female Physicians from Ancient Times to the Present Day." This award would have delighted Victor Hugo's heart.

AN OBJECT-LESSON IN BUFFALO.

Recent events in Buffalo, N. Y., furnish a striking object-lesson on the need of women's cooperation in city government, because they show how seriously even good men may err in dealing with questions bearing on the home.

The social evil had grown to alarming proportions in Buffalo. The city officers did not do their duty in keeping the streets clear of flagrant public manifestations of it. The Anti-Saloon League undertook to supplement the slackness of the public officers by vigorous prosecutions of notorious offenders. Thereupon, it is reported, a conference was called between representatives of the police department on the one side, and representatives of the Anti-Saloon League and the ministers of Buffalo on the other. The police authorities threatened, in case the prosecutions of disorderly houses were continued, to allow women of bad character to scatter themselves all over the city. Fearing the disastrous results that must follow, the ministers and the Anti-Saloon League consented to a compromise, by which they agreed to cease prosecutions, on condition that the police should confine disorderly houses to a special district of the city.

However good the intentions of the ministers and the Anti-Saloon League may have been, this compromise was a grievous error, as every compromise with sin must be.

Naturally, the respectable people in the district that has been set apart as a "vice preserve" are up in arms, especially the mothers. A meeting of protest has been held in the Michigan St. Baptist church by the Phyllis Wheatley Club, comprising 150 of the best class of colored women in Buffalo. Most of their homes are in or near the threatened district, and the Michigan St. church and another colored church are in the heart of it. One of the speakers at the meeting was Mrs. Wm. H. Talbert, a property-owner who for years has been fighting the vicious occupations of this section, and has again and again let her property stand vacant for months rather than rent it for immoral purposes. She is an educated woman, a graduate of Oberlin, where she was chosen valedictorian in a class of seventy-six members. Her address was a powerful arraignment of the ministers of fashionable churches who are willing that this section of the city should be given over to officially-sanctioned vice, and a strong plea in behalf of the boys and girls who live in the district.

Those who argue that vice should be kept out of the "residence" part of a city overlook the fact that there are actually more families to the acre living in the poorer quarters of every town than in the so-called residence districts.

Last year the Equal Suffrage Association of St. Louis led a successful fight against the effort to set off a special section for vice, and were cordially thanked by clergymen, both Catholic and Protestant, and by other citizens of the district threatened with the invasion of the "scarlet city."

The Committee of Fifteen appointed in New York City to investigate the best

methods of dealing with the social evil say in their recent report:

It must not be segregated in separate quarters of the city, for the reason that such quarters tend to become nests of crime and veritable plague-spots, and for the further reason that segregation does not segregate, just as it has been shown that regulation does not regulate.

To prevent this giving over of the young people of a whole district to destruction is a good work which might well enlist the united efforts of the Political Equality Club of Buffalo and the Buffalo Association Opposed to the Further Extension of Suffrage to Women. In Victor Hugo's historical novel of the war in La Vendée, "Ninety-Three," there is a great scene in which three children are to be rescued from a burning tower. They are little plebeians. The royalists have held them as hostages, and, failing to get concessions from the Republicans, have locked the children into an upper room of the tower and set it on fire, making their own escape by a secret passage. The Republicans surge around the base of the tower, frantic at the sight of the children's danger, but unable to reach them without a ladder. The mother, who had tracked the army for months in the hope of getting her children back, comes up just in time to see them at a window surrounded by fire. Her cries and lamentations are so terrible that they touch the hard heart of the aged royalist chief, who is listening, hidden in the bushes. He returns into the tower by the secret passage, pulls a long ladder from its hiding-place, and lowers it through a window to the children's friends. A Republican soldier seizes the bottom of the ladder and shouts, "Long live the Republic!" The old aristocrat holds the top of it and shouts, "Long live the king!" And, calling their opposite war-cries, but united for once by a common purpose, they join in handing the children down the ladder to their mother and to safety. That the children of this part of Buffalo are now in such danger is largely due to the unthinking conservatism of which the "Anti" Society is one manifestation; yet no doubt the Antis would be as glad as the suffragists to save them, if they saw how to do it. Let them try to accomplish it by the force of that indirect influence which they prefer to the ballot.

THE FORTNIGHTLY.

In spite of rain, a large audience gathered to hear Miss Vida Goldstein at the Fortnightly of the Massachusetts W. S. A. last Tuesday, on "The Women of Australia and New Zealand." The speaker not only gave a full and clear account of the situation as related to woman's ballot—explaining how much suffrage the women in the different States of Australia now have, how they got it, and what they have done with it—but she gave interesting facts in regard to the general condition and life of those far-away countries. She explained the way in which South Australia deals with youthful offenders, which she considers far superior even to the Juvenile Court system of Chicago and Philadelphia. Miss Goldstein has been appointed by the Victorian government to

inquire into American methods of caring for dependent children, and by the Criminology Society of Melbourne to study our prisons.

As Miss Goldstein is to give her lecture in or near Boston two or three times in the course of the coming week, we print no full report at this time, but advise our readers to go and hear for themselves.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, in 15 Massachusetts cities, viz.: Boston, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Holyoke, Lowell, Medford, New Bedford, Newton, North Adams, Salem, Somerville, Springfield, Taunton and Woburn, the women's school vote was larger last year than the year before, therefore

Resolved, That we rejoice in women's growing sense of duty to the schools, and urge that this year the vote be still further increased.

Resolved, That we rejoice in the large school vote cast by the women of Cleveland, O., and their steady growth of interest in the biennial election of school directors, their registration in 1896 having been 2,728; in 1898, 5,648; in 1900, 9,160; and in 1902, 14,758.

Refreshments and a social hour followed.

ROOSEVELT ACTS ON "REGULATED" VICE.

By direction of the President, "The attention of the officers and enlisted men of the army, especially of those serving in the tropics and away from home, is called to the following facts" in a general order just issued from the War Department:

"The only really efficient way in which to control the diseases due to immorality is to diminish the vice which is the cause of these diseases. Excessive indulgence in strong drink is absolutely certain to ruin any man, physically and morally; while diseases due to licentiousness produce effects which are quite as destructive, and even more loathsome.

"It is the duty of regimental, and particularly of company officers to try by precept and example to point out to the men under their control, and particularly to the younger men, the inevitable misery and disaster which follow upon intemperance and upon moral uncleanness and vicious living. The officers should of course remember always that the effect of what they say must largely depend upon the lives they themselves lead. It is in the highest degree necessary that each officer should be an example to his men in the way of temperate and cleanly living. He should point out to the men, using the utmost tact, discretion, and good sense that venereal disease is almost sure to follow licentious living, and that it is worse than folly to believe that sexual indulgence is necessary to health.

"Experience shows that in a majority of cases venereal diseases are confined to a comparatively narrow circle of men, who are admitted to the army hospitals again and again. These men always seriously impair their own efficiency as soldiers, and sometimes utterly destroy it, and they throw upon their self-respecting comrades the burden of performing all the duties which they have unfitted themselves to perform. The officers should strive to teach their men self-control, to show them that morality and efficiency in the life of a soldier, as in civil life, go hand in hand. Idleness during the hours

when there are no military duties to perform, and the lack of healthful amusement and occupation, are provocative of debauchery. Officers should do all in their power to encourage healthy exercise and physical recreation, as well as to supply opportunities for cleanly social and interesting mental occupations among the men. The young men, especially many who have been but recently taken away from the restraints and influences of home, should be encouraged to look to their superiors, both commissioned and non-commissioned officers, and especially to the company, troop, or battery officers, for leadership and support amid the temptations around them. Every effort should be made to promote throughout the army a cleanly and moral tone in word no less than in deed. As a nation, we feel keen pride in the valor, discipline, and steadfast endurance of our soldiers, and hand in hand with these qualities must go the virtues of self-restraint, self-respect, and self-control."

Concurrently with this there has gone out an order to Manila forbidding the further exaction of fees for the medical examination of prostitutes, or the issue to the women of certificates of their freedom from disease, since these things have given rise to the assumption that our Government was countenancing the social evil by issuing something in the nature of a license. Hereafter, women known to be professional prostitutes will be compelled to undergo examination from time to time, and, if found to be diseased, will be sent to a hospital for treatment. The soldiers will be inspected regularly for the same purpose. But an occasional hospital order, thus issued, will be the only official recognition of the existence of a condition of things which no discipline can crush out, and only the strictest vigilance can control, but which the authorities could not conscientiously ignore.

The President's theory regarding this whole matter is that moral education and stimulation is the only sure dependence in a struggle with the social evil. No law has ever been devised which could break it up, and the one hope of protecting the army against its ravages lies in cultivating character and a real respect for decency among the men themselves. No one is better fitted to lay his hand to this task than the President; for, whatever his faults, he has at least proved by his own case that a robust body, an adventurous spirit, and greatest love of good fellowship are quite consonant with a private life sunny throughout and well ventilated on its moral side.—*Special despatch to N. Y. Evening Post.*

THANKS TO MR. ROOSEVELT.

Under instructions from President Roosevelt, a general order in the interests of social purity has just been issued from the War Department to all our officers and soldiers, "especially those serving in the tropics and away from home." The common sense and practical sagacity of its recommendations will be recognized by all persons of experience. From Maine to California, women and good men will

be grateful to the President for this action.

Concurrently with this, there has gone out to Manila an order forbidding the issuing of official health certificates to women of bad character. The despatch to the N. Y. *Evening Post* says:

Hereafter, women known to be professional prostitutes will be compelled to undergo examination from time to time, and, if found diseased, will be sent to a hospital for treatment. The soldiers will be inspected regularly for the same purpose. But an occasional hospital order, thus issued, will be the only official recognition of the existence of a condition of things which no discipline can crush out.

The discontinuance of the official health certificates is a distinct step in advance, and will be hailed with gratification by all the social purity associations and the equal rights societies. But something more still remains to be done. Soldiers voluntarily surrender their liberty when they enlist, and if it be thought best to have them undergo medical inspection from time to time, it can be done under the military regulations. But unless male civilians of known loose morals are subjected to compulsory examination, and to compulsory confinement in hospital if found suffering from this class of ailments, it is unfair that women of loose morals should be so subjected. The compulsory examination of women is regarded as the *crux* of the whole bad system of State-regulated vice in every country where the battle against it is being fought. All its most experienced opponents unite in saying that wherever this feature is retained, all the other objectionable features connected with the system are liable at any time to reappear—the blackmailing of women, the arrest of the innocent for the guilty, the encouragement of a false illusion of hygienic security on the part of men, etc.

A strong argument from a sanitary standpoint can be made for subjecting both male and female civilians of profligate life to compulsory examination and to sequestration if they are found liable to be a danger to the health of others; but when some physician from time to time proposes this, the suggestion is invariably met with the all-sufficient answer that it would be impossible because "the men would not stand it." If men outside the army would not submit to it, women ought not to be compelled to submit to it. The law should make no discrimination between men and women who offend against good morals. Mr. Roosevelt took this ground very strongly when he was at the head of the police department in New York. We hope he will see that the same principle of justice applies in the Philippines, and will go on and complete the good work he has so well begun.—*Woman's Journal.*

On Easter Sunday, Mrs. E. C. Carpenter, the wife of the pastor of Trinity M. E. Church, Meriden, Conn., read from the pulpit the Easter sermon which her husband was unable to preach, owing to his recent injury by being thrown from his bicycle.

Miss Thora Stejneger is a Norwegian who has devoted her life to the study of animals. She has charge of the classifica-

tion of all animals received by the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, and many are the queer specimens that she examines and labels with unerring skill.

Elizabeth Dunn, A. M., M. D., who is now engaged in research work in the laboratories of the University of Chicago, has been added to the staff of the *Woman's Medical Journal*. She has charge of a new department devoted to mental and nervous diseases.

Mrs. Martha A. Shute, secretary of the Colorado State Board of Horticulture, has been selected to be the chief of the State's horticultural display at the St. Louis Exposition. Mrs. Shute's experience and success in exposition work guarantee an efficient management of this important exhibit. She had practical charge of the State's horticultural display at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, and at the Exposition at Omaha in 1898.

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COLORADO LABOR COMMISSIONER ON WOMEN'S VOTE.

James T. Smith, of Denver, Labor Commissioner for the State of Colorado, writes:

"The practical effect of woman suffrage in Colorado, during the eight years that it has been in operation here, has in my judgment been beneficial in every way. The moral tone of political conventions has been improved, and women have been enabled to command more consideration and respect than formerly. The vast majority of the membership of trades unions in this State were in favor of extending suffrage to women, — it was largely through their efforts that the amendment was submitted in 1893.

"I do not think there is much opposition now to women in politics. Most of the voters who were opposed to woman suffrage when the issue was a burning one in Colorado, are ready now to admit that their prediction of the dire disaster that would follow has not been fulfilled."

A WOMAN FOR SHERIFF.

Mrs. Clark, wife of the sheriff of Las Animas County, Colorado, has been urged to become a candidate for her husband's office by Senator Barela. He controls the vote of the county, which is almost wholly Mexican. In making the proposition the Senator wrote to Mrs. Clark: "You have always been more popular than your husband, and now you have shown yourself braver and a better thief-catcher. If there is a woman in the world entitled to be the first woman sheriff of the State, it is yourself." Senator Barela distinguished himself a few years ago as the solitary opponent of equal suffrage in the Colorado Senate. He thinks, or thought, that it was unbecoming for a woman to cast a ballot, but he considers it quite proper for her to be a sheriff and arrest desperadoes. Truly, the funniest people in the world are the opponents of equal suffrage!

IN MEMORIAM.

MRS. ESTHER MORRIS

died at her home in Cheyenne, Wyo., on April 2, 1902, aged eighty-eight years. She was the first woman justice of the peace, and she was called the "mother" of woman suffrage in Wyoming. It was through her influence that Col. W. H. Bright introduced in the Territorial Legislature the bill giving women the right to vote, which became law in December, 1869.

Mrs. Morris was born in Tioga County, N. Y., and lived for many years in Peru, Ill., where she was married to her second husband, John Morris. In 1867 she went with her husband and sons to Wyoming. They located at South Pass, which was then a mining camp. Mrs. Morris had a great influence over the men because of her intelligence and strength of character. She admonished them in a motherly way, and her interest was often manifested through kindly deeds.

As justice of the peace, to which post she was appointed in 1869, Mrs. Morris settled disputes and heard cases with a strict re-

gard for right and justice. During the year in which she held office, she tried more than fifty cases, and it is said that none of them were appealed.

Mrs. Morris leaves three sons, E. A. Slack and Robert Morris of Cheyenne, and E. J. Morris of Green River, Wyo.

F. M. A.

COLORADO NOTES.

One of the things that it takes some people a long time to learn is that there is nothing meaner than a creature who refuses to "fight fair." There can be no possible satisfaction to any but the pettiest mind in a victory gained by misstatement and a wilful garbling of facts. A case in point is the following paragraph, which appeared in the *Nebraska State Journal* a day or so ago:

"Notwithstanding the fact that the women of Colorado have all the political privileges vouchsafed to man, Denver is the most corrupt city of its size in this country, and the women are doing absolutely nothing to make it better."

Here the brilliant Bixby makes what purport to be three statements of fact, of which only the first is a fact. It is true that Colorado women have the same political privileges as men. It is not true that Denver is an exceptionally corrupt city, nor is it true that women are doing nothing to make it better.

The visitors who flock to this city during all seasons of the year, who have any opportunity of participating in the real life of the city, bear universal testimony that they know of no place of its size, or even of any city much larger, where there is so much interest taken in public affairs by women as in Denver. It is noticeable in public discussions and lectures on topics that have for their purpose to awaken thought along lines almost purely political—for better city government, municipal ownership, the initiative and referendum—and almost all the reforms that are agitated to-day must come, when they do come, through the little slot in the top of the ballot box.

Another point that seems to escape the astute mind of many of the opponents of woman's enfranchisement is that, once enfranchised, the old style of resolutions beginning with, "Resolved, That we as women," goes forever out of fashion. Denver women are seeking to get a better enforcement of the truancy laws and some assistance for the truancy officers, who are expected to be almost omnipresent in spite of our magnificent distances. They are anxious to secure a separate house of detention for children, women held as witnesses, etc., and they gave Judge Lindsey, whose record shows that he has done a great and beneficent work with juvenile offenders, about 1,500 more votes than any one else on the Democratic ticket last fall. They will seek this spring to establish free public baths, and the fact that they are constituents has enabled them greatly to extend the scope of their benevolent undertakings. But they are doing these things as citizens, rather than from the standpoint of the "eternal feminine."

It is, of course, simply bosh to call Denver a frightfully corrupt city. Com-

pared to Omaha it is comparatively spotless, if we may believe what Omahans and Omaha journals say of that town. While it has its annals of deals and steals, the same as every other city of its size, Denevr is as good as any American town of its population, and better than most of them.

Even if the city was corrupt, it would not prove that the women were to blame. New York is corrupt, but it doesn't follow that any one particular class of people should be held accountable. In every one of the great Eastern cities whose names are synonyms for rotten politics, there are hundreds of churches, and the church members are voters, and probably do the best they can to elect decent officials, but so far they have not succeeded. It would be just as fair to dump the whole burden of shame upon them, and say that the Methodists or the Baptists, the Catholics or the Jews, had the ballot, and yet the country is not saved and sanctified.

So far as we know, the women of Colorado never said they would produce the millennium the moment they received the ballot. They asked for it on the ground of justice, and they are entitled to it, if they put it to no better use than to line pantry shelves. It is a sorrowful fact that the country would be better off if some hundreds of thousands of its male voters made no worse use than that of their political privileges.—*Ellis Meredith in Denver News.*

JENNY HIRSCH, who lately died in Berlin, aged seventy-two, was one of the pioneers in the movement to secure for German women better opportunities for education and for earning a living.

MARTHA WASHINGTON may be commemorated by having her head placed upon one of the new postage stamps. The question is said to be under discussion by the post-office department. If the plan is carried out, she will be the first woman in the United States to be honored in this way.

QUEEN WILHELMINA of Holland leads a quiet and regular life. She never rises later than 6.30. At 9.30 she breakfasts on bread, eggs, cheese, cakes, and coffee. Then she devotes some hours to official duties. Lunch, at one o'clock, consists of five courses, and at 6.30 there is an elaborate dinner. At ten o'clock she retires to her apartments, and at eleven silence reigns all over the palace.

REV. ANNA H. SHAW received an unusual tribute to her eloquence the other day, when the lower house of the Iowa Legislature, though nearing the end of the session and crowded with work, voted unanimously to suspend all business and invite her to address it. The Assembly had repeated its stubborn refusal of 32 years to let the voters pass upon an equal suffrage amendment, and perhaps wanted to mollify the Iowa women who for years have been sending in huge petitions in vain. Miss Shaw was heard with close attention, and was warmly applauded both when she was introduced and when she closed. She said: "Gentlemen, the day of judgment is a long way off, but it is nearer than the time when the Iowa women will cease asking for the submission of this question!"